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Message Text

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45
ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 IO-14 SPC-03 SAM-01 AID-20

EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01 CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01

CEA-02 L-03 H-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 IGA-02 COME-00

DRC-01 /149 W
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R 221420Z FEB 74
FM AMEMBASSY BERN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8733
INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA
USMISSION OECD PARIS

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MANILA FOR USADB

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIN, SZ
SUBJECT: U.S. AND SWISS PARTICIPATION IN IDA

REF: STATE 024223

1. LETTER FROM SECRETARY SHULTZ TRANSMITTED REFTEL DELIVERED TO CONFEDERATION PRESIDENT ERNST BRUGGER, WHO IS ALSO HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ECONOMY, IN FORM OF THIRD PERSON NOTE.

2. ON FEBRRUARY 21, EMBOFFS DISCUSSED IDA REPLENISHMENT WITH AMBASSADOR JACOBI AND OTHER SWISS DIVISION OF COMMERCE OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE. JACOBI SAID HOUSE REJECTION OF FOURTH REPLENISHMENT WILL MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN FEDERAL ASSEMBLY APPROVAL OF SWISS IDA CONTRIBUTION, BUT EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR SHULTZ LETTER WHICH HE SAID WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL. JOCOBI INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT
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EFFORTS TO GET COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT AID BILL (WHICH

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WILL CODIFY EXISTING SWISS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS) THROUGH FEDERAL ASSEMBLY (SEE ALSO PARA 4 BELOW) AND CURRENT BUDGETARY PROBLEMS WILL DELAY SWISS ACTION ON IDA REPLENISHMENT UNTIL LATTER PART OF YEAR.

3. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH OTHER DIVISION OF COMMERCE OFFICIAL, EMBOFFS WERE TOLD THAT LEGISLATION FOR SWISS IDA CONTRIBUTION WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE SUBMITTED TO FEDERAL ASSEMBLY UNTIL END OF YEAR WITH NO ACTION EXPECTED UNTIL 1975. THIS OFFICIAL EXPRESSED FRANK VIEW THAT WITHOUT USG PARTICIPATION, IT VERY UNLIKELY FEDERAL ASSEMBLY WOULD APPROVE SWISS PORTION OF FOURTH REPLENISHMENT. HE ALSO DOUBTED THAT AMOUNT OF SWISS PLEDGE OF LONG-TERM NON-INTEREST LOAN TO IDA COULD BE INCREASED SHOULD SHORTFALL IN OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS OCCUR.

4. WE WERE ALSO TOLD THAT AT MARCH PARLIAMENTARY SESSION IT UNLIKELY THAT DEVELOPMENT AID BILL WILL BE ENACTED, BUT THAT INSTEAD A REPORT WILL BE REQUESTED WHICH WILL EFFECTIVELY DELAY FINAL ACTION UNTIL 1976. OPPONENTS OF SWISS FOREIGN AID ARE FULLY EXPECTED TO SEEK REFERENDUM ON ANY AID LAW. WITH ABOVE SCENARIO, REFERENDUM NOT POSSIBLE BY YEAR-END 1974. REFERENDA ALSO GENERALLY NOT HELD IN YEAR OF NATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS (1975). SWISS AID OFFICIALS OT PARTICULARLY CONCERNED BY THIS SLIPPAGE SINCE MANY FELT THAT CODIFICATION EXISTING PROGRAMS WAS UNNECESSARY AND SERVED TO PROVIDE TARGET FOR OPPONENTS OF AID PROGRAM.
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